

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting
May 2, 2023 - 4:00 PM
City Hall Room 132

Members: Reid Brown, Mark Dhennin, Ophelie Echelard, Mathew Douglas-May, Sandy Fazeli, LesLee Jackson, Hannah Jenkins, Anna Johnson, Toya Lopez, Nicholas Minderman, Erin Niehoff, Verlynn Schmalle, Philip Sturm, Gina Suarez, **BJ Wilder** (Quorum - 8)

Staff: Bjorn Olson, Kim Havey

Guests: Lee Samuelson, Sean Gosiewski

Call to Order

1. Roll Call.
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Acceptance of minutes

April 4, 2023 Community Environmental Advisory Commission

Consent

Location:
Minneapolis City Hall
350 S 5th St. Room 132

Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous and Black people in our community.

Presentations:

None

Discussion:

Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan

Recommendation for community oversight for the implementation of the Climate Equity Plan. The group would be interested in either being that body or assisting in the creation or designation of an oversight body that is appropriate for this work.

Nick Minderman noted that, given CEAC is the broadest commission, is there a way to make a recommendation that CEAC will adopt recommendations but also create a separate body with people from other groups that will feed into CEAC?

Verlynn Schmalte commented that it is important to define and have a plan for the roles to get buy in for the Climate Equity Plan. We don't want a UN Security Type veto where one member can veto something and prevent it from moving forward. We should ask what is the role of the Climate Equity Plan and how does it reconcile with competing plans and inconsistencies with other priorities and policies within the City?

LesLee Jackson noted the importance of including different committees and representation of Green Zones in the Climate Equity Plan and continuing those relationships moving forward. Will the City plan on hiring more inspectors to make sure the City is upholding implementation of the Plan?

Sean Gosiewski recommended having decentralized action teams for each goal and strategy that include community members and nonprofits that report at various meetings and all can adjust their annual workplans according to the Climate Equity Plan.

Kim Havey confirmed there will need to be a body that is responsible for accountability, progress, etc.

Lee Samuelson asked if the Plan assigns a Department for who is responsible? Is there a transparency and accountability requirement? There are no specific departments identified in the draft currently version available for comment.

Verlyn Schmalte noted that there can be issues in oversight when committees are appointed by politicians. This can threaten neutral and honest citizen input into the process.

Nick Minderman recommended a public citizen focused forum for monitoring CEP implementation similar to Energy Vision Advisory Committee. CEAC seems to be a natural fit, but they could also advise what that organization looks like.

Verlynn Schmalte recommended a model similar to the state legislature's Legacy Amendment with an unspoken agreement to little changes and bipartisanship implementation.

Sean Gosiewski recommended an online management platform that is easily understandable to provide public views of these goals and results.

Nick Minderman asked if the Plan gets to the science-based target. Is there an unidentified component of reductions that need to be addressed and is there a strategy to put that together?

Kim Havey noted the plan targets are intended to keep us inside the inverted S-curve pathway. The remaining 1.8 million-ton reduction after 2030 is yet to be determined.

Verlynn Schmalte: The Plan commits to these goals but also says we rely on Federal and State partners. What can we deliver with existing budget and existing dollars?

Kim Havey: We don't know exactly the amounts of federal and state matching funds, but the scope of the Plan would dramatically change without those contributions.

Nick Minderman noted the importance of approving the Plan by decision-makers who then prioritize and allocate the budget. While funding is critical, there are also several actions that are policy-based and may not have heavy budget demands.

Mark Dhennin recommended clear approval on the overriding policy, but we also need to have our ducks in a row to define what programs, resources, and reductions look like. We can make estimates on costs and benefits from knowns and projections on unknowns. Those in power need to see the overall magnitude of resources and effort it will take to get there.

Nick Minderman asked if CEAC would be able learn more about the Met Council GHG wedge analysis tool.

CEAC Letter of Recommendation

The Commission read through and edited the letter. A motion was made for the co-chairs to finish the letter and submit to City Council and the Mayor's Office by May 31st. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Circular Economy
Energy Systems
Clean Air
Session 2: 40 min
Green Buildings
Green Spaces
Transportation
Enterprise Leadership and Green Jobs
Report back and group conversation

(Did not have time for this)

Old Business

Updates and Announcements from Commissioners and staff

- Minnesota Home Electrification Guide
- Lawncare Electrification Pilot

Possible Future CEAC Meeting Topics:

- Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan
- Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act
- Robert's Rules of Order overview
- Additional CEAC recruitment
- Air monitoring networks in Minneapolis
- Better coordination with MPRB
- Carbon Free Zones and fossil gas free development
- How to reduce plastic in the community?
- How do we reduce emissions from the HERC?
- Electrical heating technologies

Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. After 6pm the S 5th Street doors (light rail side) to City Hall are locked. Metro passes and parking passes for the Haaf Ramp are available.

Adjournment

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 4-6pm

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